

REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register: 20 August 2001
 Name of applicant/court: Chief Censor of Film and Literature
 Applicant to the Labelling Body: Not Applicable
 Title of Publication: Baise-Moi
 Other Known Titles: Fuck Me
 Rape Me
 Kiss Me
 Directors: Virginie Despentes, Coralie Trinh Thi
 Producer: Phillipe Godeau
 Publisher: Not Applicable
 Author: Not Applicable
 Format: Video Recording VHS/PAL
 Country of Origin: France
 Language: French with English subtitles

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Baise-Moi	Running time:	73.45
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Running time:	73.45

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is limited for the purpose of study in a tertiary media or film studies course or as part of a film festival organised by an incorporated film society, and in both cases to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display Conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Contains sexual violence, graphic violence and explicit sex scenes.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: 20 August 2001

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The video recording entitled *Baise-Moi* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is limited for the purpose of study in a tertiary media or film studies course or as part of a film festival organised by an incorporated film society, and in both cases to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

This classification is due to the manner in which the publication depicts graphic violence, explicit sex and sexual violence.

The Chief Censor of Film and Literature directed the Secretary of Internal Affairs under s13(3) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act) to obtain and submit the publication under s13(1)(b). The publication was examined as a video recording. Originating in France, the publication centres around two female characters who meet and together embark on a violent crime spree, culminating in the death of one woman and the arrest of another.

Of particular note is the manner in which the publication combines and juxtaposes the depictions of violence and sex. While the publication depicts the use of violence to compel a person to submit to sexual conduct, and acts of extreme violence, as outlined under s3(2) of the FVPC Act, the publication does not do so in such a manner that it promotes or supports, or tends to promote or support, those activities.

In terms of s3(3) of the FVPC Act, the publication has been addressed under s3(3)(a)(i), ("the extent and degree to which and the manner in which the publication depicts acts of torture, the infliction of serious physical harm, and acts of significant cruelty"), and s3(3)(a)(iii), ("the extent and degree to which and the manner in which the publication depicts sexual violence and violence in association with sexual conduct"). The publication depicts both these things to a high extent and degree, with the impact further heightened by the manner of presentation. Of particular concern is the way in which the publication juxtaposes acts of extreme violence with scenes which explicitly depict sexual activity, and a scene depicting a shot of vaginal penetration during a brutal rape.

In terms of s3(4) of the FVPC Act, the dominant effect of the publication as a whole is of the unrelenting and shocking presentation of violence, and the explicit depiction of sexual activity. The publication has artistic merit, and will be of particular interest to those in the area of film and media studies. There is some concern at the possible harm that may result from the publication being made privately available on either video or DVD format, including the potential for the publication to be edited and recompiled outside of its existing context.

The Classification Office consulted widely over the classification of this film, including a consultation with members of the public. Submissions were received by various interested parties, and the classification of this publication in other jurisdictions has been considered. In classifying this publication, the option of excising part or parts of it were considered but found to be impractical. A restriction to adults only is not sufficient to minimise the likely injury that has been identified therefore the publication is also restricted to either a specified purpose or to a class of person.

The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 has been applied throughout the consideration of this publication. The classification represents the minimum interference with the freedom of expression consistent with preventing likely injury to the public good.

OFLC Ref: 100334